

AUDIENCES AT THE THEATRES

PUNCTUALITY FINISHED WHILE TARDINESS IS REWARDED.

Managers should start their plays at the time they promise to—The Plan by Alexander to Keep Laggards from Making Themselves a Nuisance.

Managers of New York theatres fool with their audiences as to the time at which performances begin. There is no need or excuse for this trifling with the public. It has come to such a pass that no frequenter of the theatres needs an announcement in that respect, even when it declares positively that the curtain will rise at a certain minute "sharp." He knows well enough that it will do no such thing, and that he can depend on a quarter of an hour delay. But the casual or credulous person hastens to his seat, only to sit dull and irritated while others come to their leisure. On opening nights, when first representations are retarded by recalls, encores, speeches and the slow hand of the scenery, the further loss of time in starting delays the end, unnecessarily until midnight. Augustin Daly used to ring up his curtain at the advertised time as accurately as the stroke of a clock. But hardly a manager of the present makes any pretense of keeping faith with his audience.

There could and should be a complete reform. The Theatrical Syndicate ought to lead the way. More than half the Broadway theatres are managed by its members. They give notice that their shows will begin punctually and keep that promise invariably, and for other managers will follow the example. Audiences would quickly learn that they were not being misled, and that if they wished to see the beginning of a play they must get there on time. That would be a reward to the prompt and a punishment to the tardy.

George Alexander has undertaken to discipline people who arrive tardily at his London theatre and prevent them from annoying those who are seated promptly. He keeps the late ones waiting in the lobby until the curtain falls on the act in progress. Fashionable Londoners dine late, and at the theatre a short play is given before the longer one, so that folks who come at 8 o'clock may be diverted and those who do not get in till 9 may still get a complete entertainment. That is the reason why comedies imported from that city are not often sufficient to fill an evening. New Yorkers do not care for "fashionable" comedies, and are inclined to regard them as an indication that the main piece is too weak to be depended on for a full money's worth.

But Irving, free and other English actors, managers habitually use dramas of sufficient length to require a start by or very soon after 8 o'clock, and so the first half hour or more of a performance is disturbed by the audience which Mr. Alexander seeks to abate. Richard Mansfield undertook the same thing when he was the manager of the Lyric. His plan was to have all persons seated at the heads of the aisles if they entered while he was on the stage, and kept there until he made his exit.

But the culprits would not submit to such discipline. When the ushers told them they would have to wait they defied the order and made their way unguided to their seats, making far more confusion than ordinarily. But the curtain can be timed and the rights of the majority regarded, even though there is minority that can't be controlled.

Ada Behn has no intention of retiring from the stage. "She is in excellent health," said Max Klaw yesterday, "and we are only awaiting the selection of a proper play to make a tour for her next season."

Amelia Bingham's chosen piece for production soon has been adopted by Haddon Chambers from the German of "The Jensen Family" under the new title of "A Modern Magdalen."

Elizabeth Treen is having a comedy made by Sydney Rosenfeld, provisionally entitled "As Others See Us," with a tour next season in view.

Norma Leslie Munro and Mrs. Robert Osborn have written what they describe as "a melodrama of New York smart society," and a Broadway manager is considering it.

Joseph Wheelock, Jr., who had to give up acting with the Empire company and seek health, is now living on Buffalo Bill's ranch in Colorado.

Jerome Sykes is to appear at Daly's next fall after the run of "The Country Girl" in a musical farce entitled "The Plunger."

Gustav Kerkor of "Belle of New York" fame has written the music and Harry K. Smith is at work on the lyrics. Paul Gilmore is to succeed James K. Hackett next season in the leading role in "Don Juan's Return."

Last evening's performance of "A Gentleman of France" was for the benefit of the dramatic society of Columbia College. Wallace's was decorated in light blue and white and many Columbia students were in the audience. They cheered Kyrie Belle and at the end of the first scene demanded a speech from him.

New York is not going to be theatrically dead this summer. Two productions are already being prepared for the middle of May in the hope of big enough success to warrant runs until fall. Eddie Fox has been engaged for a leading role in "The Wild Rose," which will be produced at the Knickerbocker May 5. Annie Yeomans and William Pruett will be in "A Chinese Honeymoon," a current London success, that will come to the Casino about the same time. Marie Cahill is to become a star in a musical farce that New York will see in August, so some warm weather activity seems likely.

Two reports of local theatrical intercomers from London. One is that Lily Langtry is coming to America this spring. The other is in "Mile. Mars," a comedy by Paul Rester of this city, that is now running in London and with only fair success. The other report is that the famous Robertson Gertrude Elliott has abandoned their proposed American tour for next season, and that Annie Russell will take Madeline Lucette Blythe's "Miss Apple" in this country. Charles Frohman owns the American rights and had intended bringing Mr. and Mrs. Robertson here in the comedy.

YESTERDAY'S MUSIC.

A Song Recital, a Piano Recital and an Orchestral Concert.

At Mendelssohn Hall yesterday afternoon H. Plunkett Greene gave his first of this season's song recitals. The first half of his programme was conventional—at least as far as the names of composers was concerned; while the latter portion was devoted to traditional Irish melodies. Now some of these may be very amusing as far as the texts read, and they brought forth smiles and applause; but on the other hand it is just as amusing to take them seriously from a viewpoint of serious compositions. So they may be dismissed as being exactly what they are: entertaining rhymes set to trivial tunes. Mr. Greene sang them as cheerfully as though he rejoiced in Methuén's capture.

Of the list of serious songs the singer was best in Brahms' "Mahnacht" and Schumann's "Auf das Trübenlaß." He has, however, been in much better vocal shape and also has shown greater fondness for the prescribed pitch. Easily did he fall from grace in his encore, Cornelius' "Ein Ton," which, belying its title, became many tones below the singer had through with it. He roused himself and his audience to enthusiasm by Maude White's "King Charles," a rollicking song to which music would elude admirably.

Victor Harris played the accompaniment artistically. The attendance was numerous and appreciative.

THE ARTHUR HOCHMAN RECITAL.

In the evening, also at Mendelssohn Hall, Arthur Hochman gave a piano recital and proved himself to be a very able young pianist. His touch is singing, yet delicate, and his technique is ample. Furthermore, it is evident in his playing that he does not rely solely upon his technical equipment to carry him through but endeavors to read some meaning into the compositions.

The Bach Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue with which he opened his programme was played with remarkable clarity and more than that, it was made to sound interesting. A Scarlatti Sonata displayed agility and accuracy of skips and the following Schumann Fantasia in G major brought the sentimental side of the performer into play. Here his moderate and careful use of the pedal is worthy of comment. The rest of the programme was devoted to Chopin, Schubert, Liszt, Scharwenka and Hochman. The audience was fairly large.

THE WETZLER ORCHESTRA CONCERT.

At Carnegie Hall in the evening, Hermann Wetzler conducted the second of his orchestral concerts here this season. Fritz Kreisler was the soloist and played the Beethoven Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Trill. With the finale of the latter he did stupendous things in technique. Throughout both numbers was his playing clear in intonation and emotion. The orchestral numbers were Smetana's "Bartered Bride," a Bach Suite in E flat and the "Meisterlanger" Prelude.

In the last number the conventional tempi were disregarded and there were heavy spots; but, on the other hand, the several themes were brought out with unusual distinctness. The Bach Suite, orchestrated by Wetzler and the scoring is very effective indeed. The result, however, is neither Bach nor Wetzler, and it seems a pale parody to such a masterpiece. One can score as well as Wetzler does, why not score original melodic ideas? The last movement of this suite was particularly well played and had to be repeated in answer to much applause. The house was well filled.

Concert for the George Junior Republic.

There was a concert given last evening in the ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria for the benefit of the George Junior Republic.

Mrs. Francis Wellman and Ellison Van Hoose sang a number of songs and Charles Gregorovich played the violin. Isadore Luckowsky was the accompanist. The audience filled the ballroom. Among the many patronesses of the affair were Mrs. Woodbury Langdon, Mrs. A. D. Julliard, Miss Clemence, Mrs. S. J. Ligon, Mrs. Sullivan, Mrs. J. Muhlenberg Bailey, Mrs. Charles T. Barney, Mrs. W. Pierson Hamilton, Mrs. Marshall B. Leferts, Mrs. Levi F. Morton, Mrs. W. G. Oakman, Mrs. Robert Oliphant, Mrs. Samuel Sloan, Jr., Mrs. Francis Dana Winslow, Mrs. Bancy Clark, Mrs. William Lannan Bull, Mrs. D. Matilda Arnold, Mrs. J. H. Gould, Mr. C. C. and Mrs. Oliver Gould Jennings.

WILL OF HENRY K. SHELTON.

Widow and Daughter Principal Beneficiaries of \$5,000,000 Estate.

The will of Millionaire Henry K. Sheldon of Brooklyn was filed yesterday for probate in the Surrogate's Court. It disposes of an estate conservatively estimated at \$5,000,000. The will was drawn by Mr. Sheldon himself and was executed on Nov. 12, 1901. Anna Embury Russell, the daughter of the testator, and Henry K. Sheldon, Jr., his nephew, are named as executors. These are the immediate bequests:

To his widow, Anna K. Sheldon, the residence at 220 Columbia Heights, to his daughter, Mrs. Russell, the Silver Lake, Pa., summer home, to his son, Henry K. Sheldon, Jr., the Silver Lake Presbyterian Church, to the Philadelphia Society, \$10,000, to the Field Trust Company, \$10,000, to the Brooklyn Institute, \$10,000, in trust for expenses in conducting the Philharmonic and Chamber Music concerts, and to the Brooklyn Institute outright, \$2,500.

All the rest of the estate is left in trust to the Brooklyn Trust Company and Henry K. Sheldon, the nephew, as trustees, for the benefit of the widow and daughter, the former to receive four-fifths and the latter one-fifth of the proceeds of the estate. Upon the death of either, the survivor to receive the entire income during her lifetime.

Upon the death of the widow and daughter, the estate is to be turned over to the issue of the latter. In the event of the daughter leaving no issue, then the estate is to be divided into five equal parts, as follows:

One-fifth to his son-in-law, James Townsend Russell, one-fifth to his brother, James V. Sheldon, or his issue, one-fifth to his brother, Louis M. Sheldon, or his issue, one-fifth to his nephew, Henry King Sheldon, Jr., or his issue, one-fifth to be divided among the following: The Brooklyn Trust Company of Arts and Sciences, the City Mission and Trade Society of Brooklyn, the Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn, the Home Mission Society of Brooklyn, the City Park Chapel of the First Presbyterian Church.

Morning Blaze in Cadillac Wall.

A chimney fire in the wall between the Cadillac Hotel and Rector's restaurant caused a small score at 2:15 o'clock yesterday morning. Some of the people in the hotel left their rooms, but the fire in the restaurant remained. Firemen put the blaze out in a few minutes.

Detectives Appeal From Pool's Fine.

Detectives Henry Kane and George Smith appealed yesterday to Judge McMahon in General Sessions from Magistrate Pool's recent decision, fining them \$10 each for insulting Mrs. May Minstrell. Decision was reserved.

Attended Absconder's Sugar Stock.

Judgment for \$90,000 was entered here yesterday against Henry J. Fleischman, formerly cashier of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank of Los Angeles by Carter, Hughes & Dwight, attorneys for the bank for money which it was alleged the cashier took when he absconded in December last. He was last heard of in Mexico on Jan. 1, 1902. He is alleged to have been carrying an account of Fleischman with Frederick B. Cochran & Co., brokers of this city, consisting of 500 shares of stock of the American Sugar Refining Company, on which there is due \$16,000, leaving an equity of over \$17,000 at yesterday's quotations.

Will Establish a Students' Fund.

For the purpose of establishing a students' fund, which is to be loaned at a small rate of interest, to students in need of financial aid, a mi-cro-me fete will be given under the direction of the Arts and Crafts Club at its rooms 57 West Fifty-seventh street.

A series of tableaux vivants will be given under the direction of F. Laues Mora. A vaudeville programme will be followed by a costume dance.

After Reading "The Sun" there is little, if anything, left to be learned on the leading subjects of the day.

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PRIEST WRITES A DRAMA.

HENRIETTA CROSMAN TO PLAY "A BALTIMORE MARRIAGE."

Father John Talbot Smith is the Author—Founded on Marriage of Jerome Bonaparte and Elizabeth Patterson—Pope One of Leading Characters.

Henrietta Crosman is to produce an historical drama written by the Rev. John Talbot Smith, a Catholic clergyman of this city. It is a five-act, five-scene play, entitled "A Baltimore Marriage," dealing with the troubled history of Elizabeth Patterson, the Baltimore girl who became the wife of Jerome Bonaparte, brother of Napoleon I., in 1809, and whose marriage was annulled by Napoleon two years later.

The scene is laid in France and brings on the stage Napoleon, the Pope, Cardinal Consalvi, his brother, the famous Fouché, Minister of Police, and Mme. Patterson-Bonaparte. Beside the fact that its author is a Catholic priest another unusual thing about the play is the introduction of the Pope as one of the leading characters. This is the first time the Pope has appeared in the English drama, it is said.

Father Smith said yesterday: "My object in writing this thing was to give half a dozen capable actors all they could do in the way of portraying human emotion and passion. Therefore, I took Mrs. Patterson-Bonaparte and her history as the theme of the play. She was a dashing girl, full of good spirits and courage, and made a strong and brilliant fight for her rights as the wife of Jerome."

She was assisted by the Pope, who pronounced her marriage a valid one, and despite the efforts of Napoleon to reverse that decision remained unswayed. Henry's rather novel and interesting spectacle is presented of the Pope defending the marriage of a Protestant girl against the attacks of a Catholic Emperor. The play, as understood, was looking for a suitable play and as I believed my character of Mrs. Patterson-Bonaparte suited her temperamental and was worthy of her history."

"As for the approval of the church authorities, this is not the first time a Catholic cleric has written for the stage. Lepe de Vega and Calderon, the great Spanish dramatists, were priests of the Catholic Church."

Father Smith further said that he had had the desire to construct a play on the character and fortunes of Elizabeth Patterson for many years and that "A Baltimore Marriage" is a revision of "The Black Cardinal," which he wrote three years ago, but never brought out.

Maurice Campbell, Miss Crosman's manager, said it was true that he had accepted Father Smith's play for Miss Crosman, but could not say that it would be produced during the present season.

PURSUING BROKER HUSBAND.

Mrs. Charles B. Adams Says She Can't Collect Her Alimony.

Sarah C. Jackson-Adams has taken proceedings in the Supreme Court to punish Charles B. Adams for contempt for failing to comply with an order requiring him to pay her \$15 a week and \$100 counsel fee in a suit she has brought against him for a separation on allegations of abandonment and cruelty. She says that on threats of violence he obtained \$10,000 from her, which was about all the money she had.

Mrs. Adams says that her husband was a stock broker at 153 Broadway, but she believes he now lives in the Hotel Albany. She lost track of him last September, but she believes he has an apartment in the Barrington at 147 Broadway. She says he told her that he had made \$50,000 in Wall Street and expected to make it a million.

REGISTERED WHEN BROOKS DID.

People Who May Throw Light on the Burns Case Known to the Police.

Assistant District Attorney Kretel has found at least one of the two couples who registered at the Hotel Island Hotel about the time Walter Brooks, who was murdered in the hotel, and a woman companion took a room there. Mr. Kretel thinks he has a clue to the identity of the other couple, but he will not be certain until today.

One of these couples lives in New Jersey. Naturally they are desirous of escaping publicity. One of the two registered under the name of Dean and the other as "W. F. Johnson and wife."

The recent developments in the Brooks case are said to have startled Lawyer Backus, who is counsel for Florence Burns. At the District Attorney's office those working on the case say that it has been greatly strengthened since last Saturday.

It is now believed that a plea of temporary insanity will be urged in the Burns girl's behalf when the full strength of the prosecution's case is known.

ARE NOT TENEMENT HOUSES.

Apartment Houses Not So Classed Under Covenant Against Tenements.

A suit of several property owners in Seventy-first street, west of West End avenue, to enjoin the maintenance of three large apartment houses there by Mrs. Kate C. Brown, wife of James J. Brown, architect, on the ground that they are tenements within the prohibition of a covenant running with the land was dismissed by Justice Truax yesterday.

The three buildings are seven stories high, have two families on a floor and cost about \$400,000. Each apartment has a parlor, library, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, five bedrooms, servant's room, private bath, servants' bath, reception room and private hall. The apartments are lighted by electricity and the buildings have electric elevators.

It was contended that these buildings are tenements under the Act of 1867, which defines a tenement as a house in which three or more families reside who do their own cooking. Justice Truax says that definition applies only for the purpose of the act. He quotes several dictionaries, one of which says that tenement houses are the poorest class of apartment houses. Referring to a mandatory provision in the Act of 1867 he says that, for instance, it is not necessary to witness the doings and rooms twice a year and that the houses are not what the covenant meant as tenement houses.

THIEF KNOCKS OUT GROCER.

Fells Him in His Store and Tries to Rob the Cash Register—Chased and Caught.

Thomas Brady, a harness maker, was held in \$5,000 bail by Magistrate Mott yesterday in the Harlem police court, on charges of felonious assault and attempted robbery. He was seen by William Polge's grocery store at 239 East Eighty-fourth street yesterday and asked for five cents' worth of seed. When Polge was about to turn to the cash register to change a quarter Brady felled him with a blackjack.

The groceryman's groan as he fell on the floor was heard by his wife in their store behind the store. She saw the thief trying to get at the cash register and began to yell for help. Brady ran out, Mrs. Polge after him crying, "Police! Police!" Brady ran east through Eighty-fourth street, and a crowd was soon in pursuit. Policemen Rangan joined in and caught the thief after a chase of two blocks.

The grocer was not seriously hurt.

St. Paul's War Tablet Unveiled.

A tablet commemorative of the services of the American liner St. Paul in the Spanish war was unveiled on board that vessel yesterday afternoon. The ceremony was in charge of a committee of the Commercial Club of St. Paul, the people of which city subscribed for the tablet. Miss Anita E. R. Furness of St. Paul unveiled the tablet, which has been placed at the head of the companionway, and then there was a luncheon, followed by speechmaking. The Hon. Henry A. Clegg of St. Paul presented the tablet and Capt. Jamison accepted it on behalf of the owners of the vessel, Capt. Charles D. Sigbee, who commanded the St. Paul during her fighting days, told of her war record interestingly, and speeches were also made by Gen. Brooks, Senator Sheridan.

Fire in the College Tavern.

The College Tavern, the oldest Columbia student rendezvous on Morningside Heights, was partly destroyed by fire yesterday morning. The ground floor was gutted, and the collection of athletic pictures and memorabilia of graduated classes was destroyed. The proprietor, familiarly known as Columbia Mike, has not decided whether to rebuild or repair the tavern, but student support has been pledged to him in either event.

Sorrow for Frederick D. Tappen's Death.

The Board of Directors of the New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children adopted resolutions yesterday afternoon sorrow for the death of Frederick D. Tappen, for twenty-one years a member of the board and later a Vice-President of the society.

DIED.

BOOTE—At Bronx, N. Y., on Monday, March 10, 1902, Alfred Boote of East Orange, N. J., aged 70 years.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

BURTON—On Sunday, March 9, 1902, James Benjamin Burton, in the 84th year of his age. Funeral services at his late residence, 238 East 82d St., on Wednesday, March 12, 1902, at 10 A. M. Interment at New Haven, Conn.

DOUGLAS—On Tuesday, March 11, 1902, at his residence, 35 West 49th St., James R. Douglas, in the 82d year of his age.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

FISHER—At Larchmont, N. Y., on Sunday, March 9, 1902, the late John Thomas Fisher, aged 62 years.

Funeral services at Trinity Church, New Rochelle, N. Y., on Monday, March 10, 1902, at 10 A. M. Train from Grand Central Station, 10:15 A. M.

Funeral services at the Trinity Church, Manhattan, immediately after church service.

HALLIVELL—At her home, 2 West 88th St., after a brief illness, of pneumonia, Annie, wife of Charles F. Hallivell.

Funeral notice later.

MACDONALD—At Bayonne, N. J., March 10, 1902, William Wallace Macdonald, late Superintendent of North Jersey Street Railroad, in his 81st year.

Friends are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services at his late residence, 41 West 83d St., on Wednesday evening, March 12, 1902, at 7:30 o'clock. Interment private. Scottish Rite temple.

PATTERSON—At Thomaston, Ga., on Tuesday morning, March 11, 1902, Andrew Patterson of New York city, nephew of the late John Patterson, in his 90th year.

Notice of funeral services hereafter.

ROSENWALD—On Tuesday, March 11, 1902, Henry, beloved husband of Emma Rosenwald, aged 54 years.

Notice of funeral hereafter.

ROWLAND—On Monday, March 10, 1902, in this city, Mary Eliza, beloved wife of Thomas Fitch Rowland and daughter of the late Charles and Sarah Bradley of New Haven, Conn., in her 74th year.

Funeral services at her late residence, 329 Madison av., borough of Manhattan, New York city, on Thursday, March 13, 1902, at 10 A. M.

SUTRO—On Monday, March 10, 1902, in New York, after a very brief illness, Leonard B. Sutro, aged 45 years.

Funeral private.

TAVERNER—On Monday, March 10, 1902, at her residence, 2008 5th av., of pneumonia, Julie M. wife of George M. Taver, and daughter of the late John J. Whiting of Brooklyn.

Funeral private, on Thursday, March 13, 1902, at 10 A. M.

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